



2014-07

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS
ALARM INDUSTRY USE OF THE
FIRSTNET NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK**

WHEREAS, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-96) was signed into law by the President on February 22, 2012, and created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Act directs FirstNet to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network, and;

WHEREAS, there are benefits for the Alarm Industry and public safety if FirstNet authorizes the Alarm Industry to be a user of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), and;

WHEREAS, the use of the NPSBN by the Alarm Industry would be for premises alarm units at government facilities, businesses, and homes, to communicate alarm information through the NPSBN to participating central station alarm facilities. Typical signals would be burglar alarm, fire alarm, medical alarm signals, and other related signals. The verified alarm information would then be transmitted from the central station alarm facility to the Public Safety Answering point (PSAP) using the Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP) or if ASAP is not available, through the NPSBN. In some cases, streaming video would be transmitted from the alarm premises to the central station alarm facility and could then, upon request, be relayed to the PSAP. The PSAP could then transmit the streaming video from the alarm premises to first responders using the NPSBN. The Alarm Industry would be substantially viewed as a "secondary user" of the NPSBN but with additional privileges as outlined below. In nonemergency periods, Alarm Industry users would in essence have the same unfettered usage as all other users. Alarm companies would benefit from their access to the reliable FirstNet network and FirstNet would benefit from negotiated monthly/annual usage fees from the alarm companies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association strongly supports actions that seek to allow use by the Alarm Industry of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.